

Annie Scott
Education Committee Testimony
RE: Education Funding Bills SB 948, SB 949 and SB 886
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Annie Scott and I am a founding board member and current board chair of the Brass City Charter School, located in Waterbury. As a founding member, I helped to write the Board and Governance Sections based on my activities with other community and school boards. I have lived in the Waterbury area for most of my life and I am very active in the community. It is very important to me that we have strong educational options in Waterbury as high quality education breeds strong foundations for good citizenship and lasting community engagement.

The historically inequitable education in our state can largely be attributed to the unequal funding practices. Governor Lamont recently took an important step towards addressing these injustices by proposing bringing the per-pupil spending for charter school students to the foundation amount of \$11,525. This will be a monumental step towards equity for Connecticut children! While this is an important step, it is just one of many that the legislature needs to be taking to ensure equity for our kids.

Connecticut's charter schools serve predominantly low-income families and children living in high concentrations of poverty. If our public school students were to be fully integrated into the ECS formula then these students would stop being funded based on where they go to school but finally be funded based on their specific learning needs. Under ECS, students who are low-income or live in high poverty areas receive additional dollars to address these factors and the impact they can have on their education.

Connecticut's public charter schools have to redirect time and talent towards researching additional funding opportunities to try and make up the inequitable difference in funding. I view this as time wasted because if this time could be put into the classroom and with the children we would be able to better serve our students and guarantee their growth and success. We want to do all we can to the best possible standards.

Please continue to stand for equity and bring educational justice to all Connecticut children.

Thank you.

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